

Mehen, the coiled serpent god, was an important guardian deity. Each night as Ra the sun god traveled through Tuat, the underworld on his journey from the west to the east horizon on the sun boat, named Mesektet, which was protected by Mehen, who coiled around it for its defense against the monster Apophis.

In addition to his guardianship of the solar boat, some texts attribute Mehen as the guardian of Osiris's corpse.

The Coffin Texts claim Mehen as the warden of criminals, who primarily were enemies of Ra; thus, the spells calling on Mehen in the name of deceased criminals assisted in the serpents' work.

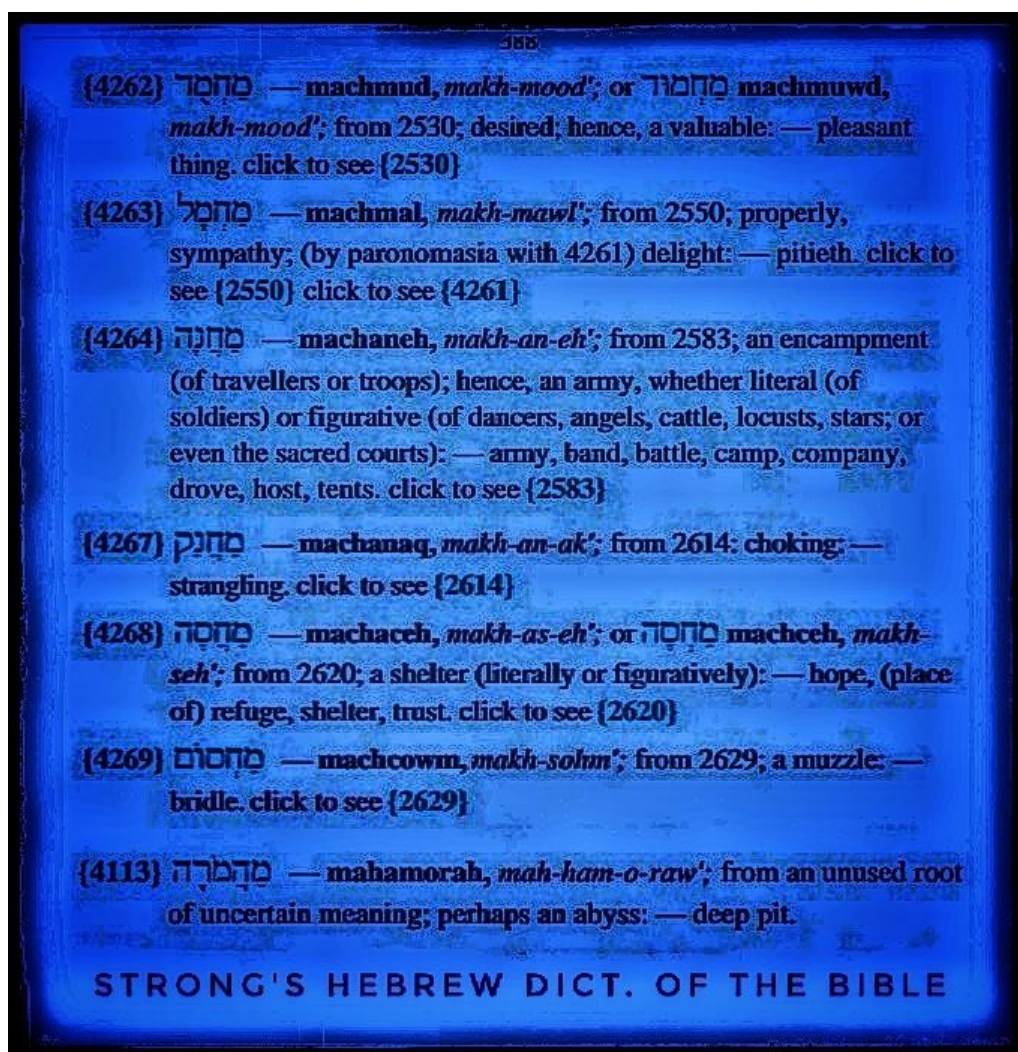
Examples of the Mehen-inspired "coiled serpent board game" survived from the Predynastic Period of Egypt to the Old Kingdom of Egypt.



Mehen was a cosmic serpent and his body was nine concentric rings, which in the eyes of men were roads of fire encircling everything they protected.

The Egyptian Underworld Books (such as The Book of Am-Tuat) depict Mehen as an immense serpent coiled around or above the cabin of the solar barque, protecting Ra.

[The Circle of the Dragon](#)



On the left of AFU-RA we have also a number of gods and goddesses who belong to this division, and among them may be specially noticed the serpent Mehen, the lord of this region; his body is bent in the form of a canopy, and beneath is the 'Flesh of Osiris.'

-- *The Egyptian Heaven and Hell, Seventh Division of the Tuat*

Their work is to make the serpent Mehen to travel to the Eastern Hall of the Horizon, and they unite themselves to their habitations after this great god hath passed through the darkness and hath taken up his place in the horizon.

-- *The Book of Am-Tuat, Chapter XI: The Eleventh Division of the Tuat [8]*

The Majesty of this great and holy god saith, Grant thou me to come forth on the path by thy spittle and by thy throat and let me utter the word which is maat to

Ankit, and let me open thy fold, for I have come to illumine the darkness, and to embrace him that is in Mehen.

-- Chapter VII: The Seventh Division of the Tuat



This god saith unto Osiris, who dwelleth in the serpent Mehen, Hail, Osiris, Governor of the Tuat, thou lord of life, thou ruler of Amentet, thou shalt live, live thou life, thou hast magical power, and shall prevail by magical power in this land.

-- Chapter VII: The Seventh Division of the Tuat

Let him that is in the shrine have the mastery over it, and let the serpent Mehen guard him well. May the flames of Khuti which are in the corners of the hidden shrine grow stronger.

-- *The Book of Gates, Chapter III: The Gate of Saa-Set*

This is the Mehen serpent of the Uraei, which strides through the Tuat.

-- *The Book of Gates, Chapter XII: The Gate of Sethu*

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In **Egyptian mythology**, the name **Mehen**, meaning 'coiled one', referred to a mythological snake-god and to a board game.^[1]

Contents

^ Snake god

The earliest references to Mehen occur in the **Coffin Texts**.^[2] Mehen is a protective deity who is depicted as a snake which coils around the sun god **Ra** during his journey through the night, for instance in the **Amduat**.^[3]

In the German-Egyptian dictionary by R. Hannig^[4], it is said that the Mehen (mḥn) or the Mehenet (mḥnt) snake is equivalent to the **Ouroboros**.



